

GANDHI LIKELY TO DEPEND ON YOUNG CABINET

By DAVID GRAVES in New Delhi

MR RAJIV GANDHI will be sworn in again as India's Prime Minister today following his historic election win and is expected to announce the first portfolios in his reconstructed Cabinet.

But first he must undergo the formality of being elected leader of the Congress (I) Parliamentary party when it meets in celebration this morning.

Later after being sworn in by President Zail Singh he will step out on the testing and potentially dangerous task of governing India for the next five years.

Commentators expected yesterday that the 40-year-old Prime Minister is likely to put the emphasis on younger ministers to match his undertaking of a more dynamic government.

All the ministers will have no hint of ever having been involved in corruption in any way. This follows Mr Gandhi's election promises in which he guaranteed a "clean and efficient" administration.

At the weekend Mr Gandhi said his first task would be to further strengthen unity, maintain complete communal harmony and ensure a fair deal for the minorities and weaker sections of the community.

Top priority

His top priority would be a solution of the crisis in the Punjab, the northern Sikh state in which extremists have been waging an insurgency campaign for a separate state which has claimed hundreds of lives.

Until the Punjab question is solved he will also live under the constant shadow of assassination, which has led to him being afforded the toughest ever round-the-clock security protection.

Mr Gandhi declared: "We have some way to go to find a solution but it would not be prudent for me to reveal it now."

His determination to maintain communal harmony will be measured against the bloody backdrop which has seen more people killed in inter-communal violence and related security operations during the last five years than during all the preceding years since independence in 1947.

Some 12,000 people have been killed, most of them in Punjab, Assam, Punjab and Delhi.

For the first time the people of Assam and the Punjab were excluded from the general election because of the security situation which had led to an unprecedented alienation of millions of people in the north-east and north-west.

Their leaders have already called upon Mr Gandhi to initiate immediate remedies to regularise the situation.

The Prime Minister also reiterated that the foreign policy of the new government would "very substantially be the same" as that followed by

State of parties

Late last night the state of the parties, with 1980 figures in brackets was: Congress (I) 395 (552); Telugu Desam 28 (did not run); Communist, Marxist 22 (53); Anna Dravida Munnetra 12 (2); Janata 10 (31); Communist 6 (11); Dalit Majdoor 3 (41); Bharatiya Janata 2 (did not run); others 24 (54).

Six seats were still undecided and elections for 34 others postponed.

his mother and by himself during the election.

After being given such a strong mandate in the election many commentators emphasised that Mr Gandhi will be able to lead any fresh initiative, both at home or abroad, knowing he has the strength and overwhelming support of the majority of the electorate.

What caused the unprecedented Congress (I) landslide was being intensely debated throughout India yesterday. The most popular conclusion was that there was simply no single answer.

The Opposition campaign of a coalition government certainly backfired and India's teeming millions voted overwhelmingly not to hand over the reins of power to a conglomerate of leading factions.

Besides, many political observers pointed out that there was a marked departure from the traditional pattern of votes being cast on communal and caste lines. Contrary to all pre-poll expectations India's 83 million Muslims also voted in large numbers for the Congress (I).

There was also a marked Hindu reaction in the vast Hindi-speaking heartland to the recent events in the Punjab and assassination of Mrs Gandhi. Another major factor was said to have been the unprecedented number of women who turned out to vote.

In his reaction to the opposition party of Mr Chandra Shekhar, president of the Janata party who himself lost his seat in Parliament, said: "To my mind, the Indian electorate decided the day Mrs Gandhi was assassinated which way it was going to vote."

Editorial Comment—P12

BANGLADESH POLL

By Our Dhaka Correspondent
The President of Bangladesh, Lt-Gen. Ershad, said yesterday he intended to hold parliamentary elections in April and challenged opposition parties to participate in the polls if they were not afraid to do so.

Threat feared as opposition is annihilated

By Our Staff Correspondent in New Delhi

THE Congress (I) victory in India's general election not only gave the ruling party a record number of seats in Parliament but almost obliterated the Opposition.

Only seven years ago India's millions voted into power an opposition coalition led by the Janata party which ruled until 1980. Last week they nearly annihilated the major national opposition parties.

Most of the opposition leaders lost their seats in the biggest electoral rout India had ever witnessed and which left the non-Congress (I) parties with only 107 seats of the 505 which went to the polls.

The results led the pro-Government HINDUSTAN TIMES to caution yesterday that the result placed an added responsibility on the Congress (I).

"Without an opposition worth the name to keep in check, the ruling party will have to ensure that its untrammelled power does not breed arrogance. A viable opposition after all is a necessary and desirable adjunct in a democratic polity."

The Janata party, which contested 207 seats, only won 10, and lost from Parliament its two top leaders, Mr Chandra Shekhar, president and Mr George Fernandes, secretary-general.

In Karnataka, where it controlled the State Assembly, the Janata lost 24 of the 28 seats to the Congress (I) which prompted the resignation of Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, Chief Minister, who recommended the dissolution of the Assembly.

The Bharatiya Janata party, which fielded the largest number of opposition candidates with only two seats, its president, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and vice-president, Mr Ram Jethmalani both lost, their seats.

Communists mauled
The Dalit Mazdoor Krishak party, which fielded 168 candidates, mainly in the Hindi-speaking heartland in north India, only won three seats and its president, Mr Chandra Singh, 82, was only one of two major opposition politicians returned to Parliament.

In Parliament the second largest party will be the Telugu Desam, a regional party with 28 seats, which managed to elect the Congress (I) steamroller in Andhra Pradesh.

The two major Communist parties were also badly mauled. The Communist party of India (Marxist) won only 22 seats compared to 38 at the 1980 election and the Communist party of India (CPI) could only manage six seats against 11 four years ago.

In Tamil Nadu, the All-India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam regional party, which fought the election as an ally of the Congress (I), gained 12 seats, which was more than any of the major non-Communist opposition parties.

State to sue for Bhopal victims

By BALRAM TANDON in New Delhi

THE Madhya Pradesh state government yesterday decided to sue the multi-national Union Carbide company in Indian and American courts for the deaths through criminal negligence of more than 2,500 people and injuries to thousands more.

Mr Arjun Singh, the Chief Minister, did not reveal the figure of compensation the government will seek from Union Carbide for the Bhopal gas plant disaster.

But he appealed to individuals not to sign separate agreements with lawyers in Bhopal or from abroad.

DOCTORS DISPEL EYE FEARS

By Our Medical Consultant

Eye specialists who flew to India after the Bhopal disaster caused by the escape of methyl isocyanate gas which killed 2,500 people consider that permanent damage to some victims who survived may not have resulted.

Dr Neil Anderson of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Mr Malcolm Kerr Muir of Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, report on their examinations of victims in the current issue of THE LANCET. They examined both people who had been exposed to the gas and others from distant communities.

Shipment returned

Our NEW YORK STAFF writes: A 13-ton shipment of methyl isocyanate, the chemical that caused the Bhopal disaster, was safely returned to an American pesticide plant in Woodbine, Georgia, at the weekend after the Brazilian government refused to accept it.

MARCOS MISSING AT CEREMONY

The Philippines' prime minister Mr Cesar Virata, laid a wreath in honour of the national hero, Jose Rizal, in Manila yesterday, standing in for President Marcos, who had not made a public appearance outside the presidential palace for nearly two months.

Marcos, 67, long rumoured to be suffering from an incurable kidney disease, went into a three-week medical seclusion last month, but the palace said he only had "flu".—A.P.



A relative of one of the hundreds of people kidnapped during the civil war in the Lebanon defiantly manning a barricade of blazing tyres in Beirut yesterday when protesters blocked the crossing points between the Christian and Moslem sectors for the fourth consecutive day.

All change as EEC enters new phase

By ALAN OSBORN Common Market Correspondent

A NEW four-year cycle in the Common Market development begins this week with the taking office of a new EEC Commission under the presidency of M. Jacques Delors, the former French finance minister.

At the same time, the Presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers also changes this week from Ireland to Italy, which will hold the responsibility for the first six months of 1985.

The two new British members of the 14-man team are Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, both former Junior Trade Ministers. They replace Mr Christopher Tugendhat and Mr Ivor Richard.

The Commission is a kind of EEC executive body. It makes policy proposals and, once they are approved, administers them. But it has only limited powers of decision making.

Individual Commissioners can leave their mark on Community Affairs. The Roy Jenkins regime of 1970-80 is credited with raising the Commission's political authority. The Casteon Thorn Commission just ending is generally regarded, in contrast, as indecisive and ineffective.

Shift of focus

Nevertheless, the past four years have seen some important gains for Community unity, even if they mostly came in the last few months. The new Budget deal set up last June at Fontainebleau for instance should ensure an end—at least for some years—to the perennial bickering over Britain's budget rebate.

It also paves the way for an increase in income to the Community from 1986 thus averting the possibility of the withering of initiative for want of cash.

Sudan troops kill 83 in 'outlaw camp' raid

By OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT

SUDANESE troops had killed 83 rebels and wounded many others in Southern Sudan, the official news agency said in Khartoum yesterday. A "camp of outlaws" near Bentiu was attacked last Friday.

Casualties on the government side were three dead and three wounded. Fighting was still going on to clear the Upper Nile area of the outlaws, the statement said.

On Friday the agency quoted the Army's general command as saying that Government troops killed 600 rebels in fierce fighting that took place at the Jangle area of Southern Sudan three days earlier.

Rebels who call themselves the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and other organisations opposed to President Nimeiri's government have been waging a guerrilla war in Southern Sudan, attacking river transport and kidnapping foreign workers at development projects.

Nimeiri has accused foreign governments, notably Libya and Communist Ethiopia, of stirring up unrest in the South to topple his government.

In 1972, three years after he came to power, President Nimeiri succeeded in putting an end to a 17-year civil bush war in Southern Sudan by signing the famous Addis Ababa accord which gave the South self autonomy.

Last Tuesday he sent Christmas greetings to Sudanese Christians and urged rebels to participate in a national dialogue with the government.

U.S. SOLDIER KILLED

An American sergeant was killed and three others injured on Saturday night when a lorry collided with a military vehicle near Irbid, 53 miles east of Amman. The dead man was named as Steven Logan.—A.P.

U.S. READY FOR TWIN TALKS

By FRANK TAYLOR in Washington

AMERICA is prepared to hold two sets of arms control negotiations dealing with both offensive and defensive weapons, but will not halt space-based anti-missile research, according to officials in Washington.

This forms the basis for the talks in Geneva next week between Mr Schultz, Secretary of State, and Mr Gromyko his Soviet counterpart.

Written recommendations drawn up by the National Security Council in consultation with the State Department and the Pentagon, were flown to Mr Reagan in California at the weekend.

Russians' wish

The officials said that the proposals would show that the United States was ready to be "more flexible on procedural issues."

But the Americans seem solid in their stand regarding a space-based missile defence shield, known as the Strategic Defence Initiative. Research into it will continue although eventual deployment could be a matter for negotiation with Moscow.

The Russians would ideally like to see a formal halt to this research as well as a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons testing as a condition of broad new arms negotiations.

FEUD SETTLED

Reagans 'all in love'

AN BROOKE in Los Angeles writes: With an embarrassing family feud apparently settled, President and Mrs Reagan were in Palm Springs yesterday for the annual gathering of his "Kitchen Cabinet."

These were the wealthy businessmen who were instrumental in first persuading Mr Reagan to run for public office in 1964 and then to leave his "Kitchen Cabinet."

The reunion is at the palatial home of Mr Walter Annenberg, former Ambassador to London. The Reagans have been guests at his lavish New Year parties for the last 18 years.

The Reagans flew to Palm Springs from Los Angeles following a three-hour peace meeting with the "elder son" Mr Michael, 39, who was adopted during Mr Reagan's marriage to the actress Jane Wyman.

Budget and enlargement problems will certainly dominate EEC business for the early part of 1985 but thereafter it seems probable the focus will shift sharply to the problems of integration and unity.

The success of the pragmatic approach favoured by Britain lies largely in the hands of Lord Cockfield who will be in charge of the internal market. His job will call for a painstaking grasp of technical detail and a single-mindedness of purpose. He is thought to be well qualified for this.

Mr Clinton Davis will handle transport and the environment, among other issues. While neither of the British Commissioners holds one of the supposedly senior portfolios, their jobs will be central to the evolution of the EEC.

The previous "big" posts such as agriculture and the budget have been stripped of much of their glamour by the new spending disciplines agreed as part of the Fontainebleau deal.

Editorial Comment—P12

SYRIA DEATH CLAIM

BY ARAFAT

By JOHN BULLOCH Diplomatic Staff

MR YASSER ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, yesterday accused Syria of being behind the murder of a former West Bank Mayor in Amman the previous day.

Mr Fahd al Qawasm, who was Mayor of Hebron, was deported from the occupied West Bank by Israel in 1980. Since then he has lived in Amman, and last month was elected a member of the Executive Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the "Cabinet" of the PLO.

Qawasm was killed on Saturday by two gunmen who attacked him outside his house on Jebel Amman, a fashionable residential area of the Jordanian capital. They shot him three times after throwing a grenade which failed to explode.

Arafat, who flew to Amman yesterday, roundly charged the Damascus regime with complicity in the murder.

He said: "Let the hiring killers and the rulers of Damascus know that they will not be able to destroy the will and determination of our people or to stop the Palestinian revolution."

40 MEDICAL AIDES DIE

By Our Bangkok Correspondent

KHMER resistance artillery killed 40 Vietnamese medical personnel during 11 hours of fighting for control of a large resistance camp on the Thai-Cambodian border yesterday.

The guerrillas themselves lost 30 dead and 150 injured in the battle for the Nong Samet camp.

Nong Samet was held by the liberation front, one of the two non-Communist factions fighting the Vietnamese and the Hanoi-backed Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh.

The base is 19 miles south-west of the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet. It was overrun by the Communists on Christmas Day.

Ethiopian royal family still held in jail

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

TEN members of the Ethiopian Royal family jailed by the Marxist military regime since the 1974 Revolution are preparing to spend their 10th Christmas, celebrated by Ethiopians on Jan. 7, in prison in Addis Ababa.

They are the Emperor's only surviving daughter, a daughter-in-law, three grandsons, four granddaughters and another woman relative.

They are being held in the capital's central prison with between 5,000 and 6,000 other prisoners, many of them political detainees.

Christmas is later in Ethiopia than in the West because of the largely Christian Orthodox country under Marxist rule still follows the old Eastern Orthodox Church calendar.

The ten are the Emperor's closest surviving relations after his eldest son, the Crown Prince, who lives in London. The Crown Prince's eldest daughter, Princess Eliyahu, died in prison in Addis Ababa in 1977.

The central prison is a large, heavily-guarded compound of buildings and the prisoners are believed by foreign diplomats to include many political detainees.

The three sons of Prince Makonnen are kept in the prison's high security wing, known by its Amharic name of Alem Belague, translated as "I have had enough of the world."

The seven women are in the general women's section, where inmates include common criminals. The women are housed in wards, each prisoners having a standard sleeping space of about two feet by six feet.

The Royal detainees are said to be better off than many prisoners because groups of friends and supporters outside supplement their basic diet of bread and tea.

12 KILLED IN SNOWSTORMS
Nine days of snowstorms have killed at least 12 people in northern Japan. Most of the victims, in Niigata on the Japan Sea coast, had fallen while clearing snow from roofs.

Thousands of New Year holiday travellers were stranded yesterday when more than 40 express trains in Niigata and surrounding areas had to be cancelled because of the storm. —Reuter.

The daughters are Princess Aida Desta, 56, Princess Miruta (Ruth) Maryam Desta, 54, Princess Sabla Wangel Desta, 55, and Princess Sofya Desta, 51.

Princess Tenaghe's two sons of her marriage to Ras Desta are both dead. The elder, Amha, express trains in Niigata and surrounding areas had to be cancelled because of the storm. —Reuter.

The Council of Hemispheric Affairs placed President Alfonsín's democratic regime at the head of its list of Central and South American countries respecting human rights.

"Given Argentina's horrendous recent history as the hemisphere's worst human rights violator, the country has made the most extraordinary return to the ranks of democratic societies of any hemisphere nation in recent history," said the council, a private Washington-based research group.

Following Senator Alfonsín's inauguration in December 1983, human rights violations were said to have "virtually ceased". Trade unions, political parties, the press and the arts all emerged with "renewed vitality."

Slow justice
But the council noted that despite the democratic government's obvious intention to bring to justice those responsible for the bloody years of repression, progress has been slow.

"Several leading human rights groups remain dissatisfied... they charge that Alfonsín has wavered in the face of threats and intimidating gestures by the military," the survey said.

However, continuing pressure from the military and other right-wingers makes discretion a "reasonable strategy" to follow, the survey added.

Just how Alfonsín maintains this delicate balance between a population hungry for a settlement on one hand, and a resistant and brooding military on the other, is a matter to be closely scrutinised in the coming years.

Apart from Argentina, other countries with positive human rights records in 1983 were said to be Belize, Venezuela, Ecuador and the English-speaking Caribbean.

But severe abuses continued in Guatemala, where the had failed to cover up continuing brutality by the armed forces against the country's civilian population.

ASTIZ WINS MILITARY HEARING
By CRISTINA BONASEGNA in Buenos Aires
A CIVILIAN judge in Argentina handling a case against Lt Col Alfredo Astiz on charges of abducting and wounding a missing Swedish girl in 1977, has ruled that the case should be transferred to military courts.

The ruling follows a month-long battle over competence between the prosecution and the defence in a case against the Argentine Navy officer.

Federal Judge Miguel del Castillo, who is investigating the disappearance of a Swedish national, Dagmar Hagelin, under the former military regime, unexpectedly ruled that he was not competent to handle the case.

He made the decision under controversial reforms to the military code of justice, introduced by President Raul Alfonsín almost a year ago.

Tribunal backing
The Armed Forces and the highest military tribunal in the country have openly backed Astiz, claiming that the middle-ranking officer was merely following orders by his superiors in the regime's drive against terrorists in the mid and late seventies.

Astiz has been accused by eye witnesses of the abduction of shooting Miss Hagelin, then 17, in a case of mistaken identity of taking her to an illegal detention centre where she was last seen alive a few days later.

HEMINGWAY INJURED
Margaux Hemingway, the American actress and model, was in hospital recovering from a ski accident in which she broke her pelvis at a sports clinic in Innsbruck, Austria, said yesterday.—A.P.

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RING THE GAS PEOPLE!

Gas is the most popular fuel in British homes—it's clean, controllable and economical. But like any fuel, it must be used carefully.

So, if you smell gas—at home, at work or in the street:

Don't smoke or use naked flames, or operate electrical switches—on or off.

Open doors and windows, to get rid of the gas.

Then check to see if the gas has been left on unlit, or if a pilot light has gone out. If it hasn't, turn off the whole supply at the meter if you can.

Above all, don't leave it to someone else—call the gas people.

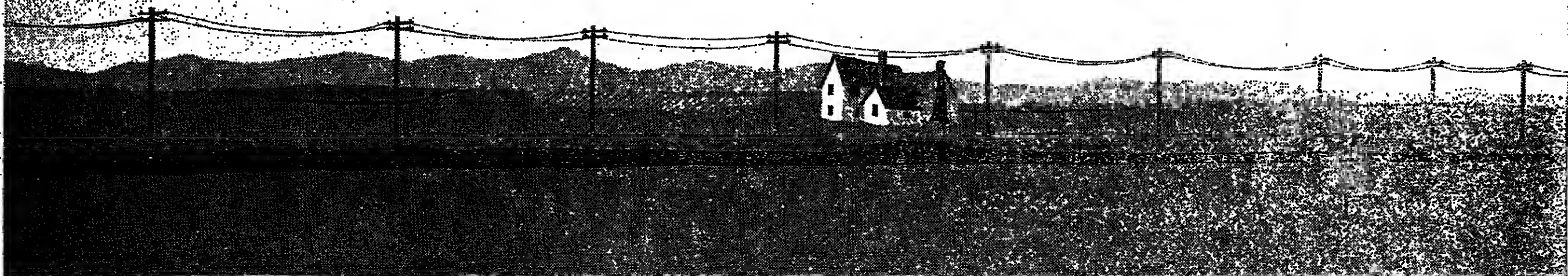
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Former trade union leaders are in the Queen's New Year's Honours List

FRANK CHAPPLE & LEN MURRAY FOR THE LORDS

THE Queen's New Year's Honours list, published today, includes the following:

LIFE PEERS

Dame Mary Warnock, Senior Research Fellow, St Hugh's College, Oxford University.
Francis Joseph Chapple, former General Secretary, Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union.
The Right Honourable Lionel Murray, OBE, lately General Secretary, Trades Union Congress.

Air Force

GCB
Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy, KCB, AFC, ADC.

KCB

Acting Air Marshal Joseph Alfred Gilbert, CB, CBE.

CB

Air Vice Marshal Peter Spencer Collins, AFC.
Air Vice Marshal Robie Lowther, MBE.
Air Vice Marshal Henry Alan Morrison, CBE, AFC (Retd).

PRIVY COUNSELLORS

Sir Frederic Bennett, MP for Torbay.
Sir Bernard Braine, DL, MP for Castle Point.
Beatrice Nancy, Baroness Seear, Liberal Party Leader, House of Lords.

COMPANION OF HONOUR

Sir Hugh Maxwell Casson, KCVO, for services to Architecture and the Arts.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR

James Blyth, Head of Defence Sales, Ministry of Defence.
Gordon Charles Brunt, Managing Director and Chief Executive, International Thomson Organisation.
John Michael Carlisle, Chairman, Trent Regional Health Authority.
William David Coats, Chairman, Coats Patons.
John Alfred Gamber, CMG, MBE, TD, Director-General, The Save the Children Fund.
Peter Howard Darby, CBE, OBE, E.M. Chief Inspector of Fire Services for England and Wales.
Paul (Arthur) Dean, MP, for political service.
Darmuid Dewar, CBE, for services to the study of Engineering Technology.
Kenneth Durham, Chairman, Unilever.
Reginald Goodall, CBE, Conductor, for services to music.
Roy Pollard Hardie, CBE, for services to education.
Robert Haslam, Chairman, British Steel Corporation, Chairman of the House of Commons.
Christopher Anthony Hogg, Chairman, Chairman, Science and Engineering Research Council.
Professor John Frank Charles Kingman, Chairman, Science and Engineering Research Council.
Professor William Hunter McGee, for services to Theoretical Astronomy.
William Fergus Montgomery, M.P. for political service.
Rear-Admiral Morgan-Giles, DSO, OBE, GM, for political service.
Robin Buchanan Nicholson, Chief Scientific Adviser, Cabinet Office.
Norman John Payne, CBE, Chairman, British Airports Authority.
William Stanley Peart, Professor of Medicine, University of London.
John Anthony Quayle, CBE, for services to the Theatre.
Professor Charles Randolph Oakey, CBE, Vice-Chancellor, University of London.
Peter William John Reynolds, CBE, Chairman, Rank Hovis McDougall.
Adam Nicholas Ridley, for political service.
David Robinson, for charitable services.
Jeffrey Maurice Sterling, CBE, for public and industrial services.
Peter Hannay Tapsell, M.P. for political service.
Lionel Stuart White, MBE, TD, for political and public service.

ORDER OF ST MICHAEL AND ST GEORGE

CMG

William Bentley, CMG, Ambassador, Oslo.
Alain Clowes Goodson, CMG, CVO, Ambassador, Dublin.
Cynthia Morgan James, CMG, Ambassador, Mexico City.
Robert Mark Russell, CMG, Ambassador, Ankara.

CMG

Donald Francis Balleyston, Consul-General, Los Angeles.
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Mr. Len Murray (Life Peer)



Dame Mary Warnock (Life Peer)



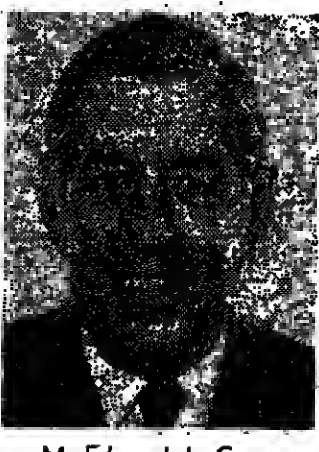
Mr. Nigel Vinson (Life Peer)



Mr. Reginald Goodall (Knight)



Anthony Quayle (Knight)



Mr. Edward du Cann (KBE)



Mr. Peter Tapsell (Knight)



Sir Bernard Braine (P.C.)

Actor Anthony Quayle becomes a knight

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Military Division

Navy

CBE

OBE

MBE

MBE

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FARMER'S DIARY

Natural goodness needs no dice

Why JAMES GLADSTONE refuses to play games with real farm life

FOR Christmas I was given a board game called Farming. Playing it is the agricultural equivalent of three years before the mast on a Newcastle-bound collier or a coach-tour vacation for a driver of the Number 19.

All kinds of things can happen to you in Farming. In addition to the predictable insecticide demands, crop failures and terrible prices, fowl pest hits the poultry, droughts succeed consecutive rain, turning fly attacks, machinery breaks down, sheep die, sprays drift on to neighbour's fields, winter fodder runs out, your dog worries sheep, floods succeed blizzards, and hills pour in continuously.

Even when you do have a good harvest, it only seems to result in increased overtime payments.

The glib reaction would be to say that the game mirrors real farm life and to a certain extent it does. A survey commissioned by the National Farmers' Union has shown that people outside agriculture think of farmers as being great ploughmen, always complaining of no good reason. There is much truth in that as well.

It is certainly how the inventors of Farming see country life. "Run your own farm for a year," says the blurb on the box. "A new family game to test your skill! Keeping the bank happy!"

What is not mentioned on the box, nor by enough farmers, nor, I fear, as frequently as it should be in this diary, are the enormous pleasures of farm life, the endless compensations for the endless cold war with the bank manager.

Sometimes these pleasures are overwhelming. Writing in the Spectator before Christmas, P. J. Kavanagh said: "Cratichneumon, praise, is something we seldom show much of for some reason. We seem to prefer low spirits... but the need to praise exists."

"On some recent mornings, after a night of rain, day begins with a clear sky, grey-blue; these clear away and the sun shines on a bright, wet world, crows' wings flash gold, seagulls look whiter than white and the green silage trailer on the horizon glistens; even the cows are so content they rest their steaming chins on each other's backs and half-close their eyes: there is a need to describe such mornings and that would be good, though it

would sound a little on the soft side; they make you want to shout and thank somebody for them....

Some mornings... and some evenings too... I think all farmers often feel the need to shout and thank somebody but most of us fear it would sound a little on the soft side.

Not only clearing clouds bring on feelings of joy, but corn calves and lambs, contented cattle in freshly strawed yards, ripening crops, a thriving plantation, the flash of a kingfisher or climb of a skylark can all induce it in me, and drive the bank manager out of mind for hours on end.

Nature is not the only thing that is generous with compensations. The other great source of reward is country people.

Old Eli is a fictional character, based on several real individuals, who feature occasionally in the columns of *Bio Farm Weekly*. He has retired from active farming but retains a lively interest in all that goes on although his grasp of modern techniques is shaky.

He has his own stool in the corner of the bar in the Aborted Heifer, and a regular evening totake of four pints of Old of Amazing XXX. It was five pints until the last price rise.

Despite a rudimentary education, he is well read and politically very aware. Stafford Cripps can do no wrong.

Age is making him increasingly disgusting in his habits, but he is so steeped in country sense, strong opinions and gentle humour that half an hour in his company is as good for the spirits as a shiny morning.

There is nothing fictional about Davie, a character from my childhood, whose delight on summer evenings was to blast rocks from the fields with gelignite somehow acquired from the local quarry. I loved to go out with him, help him bore the hole (in just the geologically correct spot), smell the pink explosive, see the fuse lit and roar furiously for the shelter of the nearest dyke while he blasted "warnings" on a referee's whistle. Wheeeeeee BOOM. The rattle of sharp granite slices.

When Davie took the trouble to travel to my father's funeral the lump in my throat was so choking that I could not even say "Thank you."

Nature and country people are not on the cards in Farming. Thankfully, they figure large in real life.

NOTEBOOK

ROY KERRIDGE

An odd practice

TRoubled by earache, I was recently prevailed upon to visit a doctor. This was to be my first visit to a G.P. since I had left school 25 years before. Entering the surgery, I was told to sit down, and the doctor, with a wild, glassy gleam in his eye, beamed ferociously and produced a wad of forms to fill in. He seemed fascinated to receive a new victim and determined to collect every detail of my life for his files.

I knew where I had seen that mad gleam before—on the face of a child guidance officer, or a verger in psychiatric ideas. While I tried in vain to mention my ear, he hung my arm in a strait-



SURGERY NEXT PERVERT



CHEMIST

my life. When I got home, I poured all my bottles down the sink. As for asking you about children, I have many patients so I'm used to every kind of marital irregularity.

At that point, I made an excuse and left. Evidently the doctor was seriously infected by sociology, and spent his time gloating over the irregular whole environments in his files. Taking the yellow pills he prescribed, I became extremely ill, but recovered as soon as I had thrown them away. I then found that my ear was simply bugged up with wax, and an ear-dropper from a chemist cured me in no time.

Here are two questions for your files.

Would it have been better if the doctor had concentrated on my complaint and left my whole environment alone? Or would I have been safer if he had ignored my complaint completely, and concentrated on my whole environment?

At once he put on an expression of great significance. "Sit down," he said, "and I will tell you."

I sat down and waited.

"Very often," he explained, "a patient is a homosexual or has some unusual sexual problem, or perversion. A simple question about contraceptives may lead him to unburdening his mind and telling me everything. Suicide can be averted that way, just by a man-to-man talk. Today we believe in not only treating the patient's complaint, but treating his whole environment. I'm fascinated that it's the sexual questions that annoy you. Some patients are annoyed when I ask them if they drink."

"I remember one patient answered 'no' to that question, although he was really an alcoholic. 'Doctor,' he told me later, 'you asking that question really changed

JULIAN CRITCHLEY campaigns to ban peace studies

CND's classroom battle

WHEN a director of education allows himself to write: "Children should be aware of their responsibility for world disarmament," he has unintentionally demonstrated what a scandal it is that local education authorities should be able to determine the curricula of State schools. For it is this type of thinking that sees nothing amiss with the political indoctrination of children through "Peace Studies" to the detriment of truth and national unity.

To judge from the self-advertisement of CND, it is making great strides in schools. Thus we read in the Traceman, organ of the NUT: "Peace studies are taught in 64 per cent of Labour authorities and 58 per cent of Conservative authorities." In fact these are only percentages of the total number of replies to a questionnaire to which more than two-thirds of Conservative-controlled local authorities did not reply. However, it is probably true that (unilateralist) "Peace Studies" are now part of the curriculum of many primary and secondary schools in Labour areas, especially in the north.

On the other hand, except in the University of Bradford whose post-graduate school of "Peace Studies" is the fons et origo of the CND movement, there has been little impact so far on the syllabuses for public examination.

The Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board says that it has not experienced any pressure from schools to prepare a syllabus. The University of London Schools Examination

Department has "Peace Studies" combined with a compulsory study of historical methods and sources. The specimen papers on World Peace and Co-operation in the 20th century are of an unbelievable antiquity, being an old League of Nations paper combined with a United Nations paper circa 1945—a difficult setting for CND propaganda.

On the other hand the Joint Matriculation Board Exams Council does provide ample opportunity for peace propaganda. In the A/O level on Science, Technology and Society there is an optional topic "Science and War; the atomic bomb" where: "Candidates should be able to express their views on unilateral and multilateral disarmament."

There is also a study of war in the O-level syllabus in Integrated Humanities, which includes biological, chemical and nuclear warfare, and under the heading Prevention and Control of War, "popular movements, pacifists, conscientious objectors, CND, humanists and religious attitudes."

An essential guide to all this is "Peace Studies: A Critical Survey," by Baroness Cox and Roger Scruton. Starting with the "Peace Studies" papers put out by teachers and graduate students of the Bradford University school of that name, they say: "They show a marked bias towards unilateralism, a piecemeal and whimsical approach to major problems of strategy, logic and moral and political philosophy and an indifference towards the geopolitical situation which has caused the present crisis... The principal subjects of staff research publications are pacifism, peace

movements and how to support them, non-violent action, strategy and, where it is a question of political analysis, areas of conflict within the Western bloc."

There is a postgraduate course leading to a Master of Arts degree. Among the themes of this course... there is no disciplined history of modern Europe and no extended political analysis of the "socialist States" in general or the Soviet Union in particular. So much for the academic background of the Peace Movement propagated in the schools by militant pressure groups.

Charitable behaviour is often the introduction to "Peace Studies," as in a Religious Education programme in Exeter: "Which do you prefer, swords or ploughshares? Destruction or development? Atom bombs or charity?"

One of the worst aspects of this emotional rampage is the way in which it is splitting the nation. To judge from the majority of university syllabuses and the movement of opinion among university students today, the better educated boys and girls from the sixth forms of the comprehensive schools and independent schools, are, for the most part, untouched by this mindless agitation. The less able majority, who suffer from political indoctrination in primary and secondary schools controlled by Labour local authorities, are in danger of growing up with a lasting bias against patriotism and a total ignorance of the world. For this reason I believe the time has come for something more effective than Sir Keith Joseph's mild rebuke of the "Bses against the Bomb."

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PLAYS AND PLAYERS

A package of mixed blessings

JOHN BARBER on the pleasures and frustrations of corresponding with readers

I HAVE MADE my New Year resolution to answer readers' letters within a week. I doubt I shall keep it. I will try, I tend to wait a bit, and then dispatch a batch, cheering myself by punning on Ernest Hemingway as Merlin when he intoned: "I am a dispenser of doom." For the morning star brings many a misadventure.

Not all friendly. The majority are complaints. Anger is your greatest stimulant to correspondence. People bother Harold Pinter, people bother Harold Pinter. "He's all piffle," I ask in print why the National doesn't stage more foreign classics. John Osborne sends a card: "Because they are so boring!" The woman director of Shakespearean production—one of the comedies—accuses me of sexism and assures me I made it in howl their heads off in Solihull.

An adored actress, "greatly distressed" by a too-pertinent comment, does not know how she will ever survive the 100 I praise her father has taken his children to a sophisticated revue satirising American show-bizographies, and is after my blood because they did not understand all the jokes. And, of course, if one makes a slip of the tongue, one named Macduff for Banquo—schoolgirls explode in triumphant condescension.

I never know if the soft answer turneth away wrath because virtually no one acknowledges a reply. A mother acknowledged a reply, who published a useful theatre book she listed for her son, and on an impulse I sent her my copy. No reply. I am asked why theatres don't give seat numbers of tickets: a separate clerk takes the order, and checks half-hourly with a plan held by staff dealing with the queue at the box office. Is the explanation satisfactory? No reply. Someone wants to know the services from Eltham to the Donmar Warehouse. In the Donmar Warehouse, I don't. I handily pass on to Trevor Nunn, who used it as an infuriated admirer of Alao Ankyhorn tells me I got the plot all wrong in my piece about one of his 16 "Intimate Exchanges" series. I check with the author, who sends me a script and says I was right—

maybe my chap saw one of the other plays? I am asked who played Horatio to Donald Wolfit's Hamlet (John Wynnard). People no more think of thanking you for half-an-hour's research than they do when you stand up in the theatre to let them pass to their seats.

Then there are the requests. "Dear Mr Barber: My tutor has set me to write a thesis on 20th-century drama in performance. Will you please list 50 best plays, justifying each choice, with comments on all the productions you have seen?" Or: "Dear Mr Barber, the BBC is taping down the enclosed play 'Samskand' and the Elders, because it lasts four hours, with 56 characters. What about Sartre and O'Neill? After reading the enclosed which you will enjoy, tell me in full what you think."

But then there are the lovely long letters from retired players going deep in remembered pleasures. Will you please list 50 best plays, justifying each choice, with comments on all the productions you have seen? Or: "Dear Mr Barber, the BBC is taping down the enclosed play 'Samskand' and the Elders, because it lasts four hours, with 56 characters. What about Sartre and O'Neill? After reading the enclosed which you will enjoy, tell me in full what you think."

Of the many rewards letters give me, none was more welcome than that which accompanied a gift from the late Ronald Jones, a copy bound in vellum of the pre-publication typescript of "Peter Pan," dated of 1904, before J. M. Barrie's later meddlings with the text. He liked something I had said about the play. I lent it to Trevor Nunn, who used it in preparing his first Barrie production. But apart from those I suspect my secretary censors, 56 letters are read, provided they are in prose. Those I reverse my wife uses to pin up her hair.

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33	37	NA	5.12	4.61	7.21	6.44	8.53	7.50	10.57	9.29
34	38	NA	5.56	5.05	7.65	6.88	8.97	7.94	10.91	9.63
35	39	NA	6.08	5.57	8.17	7.40	9.39	8.36	11.25	9.97
36	40	NA	6.76	6.25	8.91	8.14	10.13	9.10	11.99	10.71
37	41	NA	7.42	6.91	9.65	8.88	10.87	9.84	12.73	11.45
38	42	NA	8.22	7.71	10.45	9.68	11.67	10.64	13.47	12.19
39	43	NA	9.20	8.69	11.33	10.56	12.55	11.52	14.21	12.93
40	44	£5.12	10.24	9.63	12.23	11.44	13.43	12.40	14.95	13.67
41	45	5.70	11.40	10.79	13.80	12.60	14.59	13.56	15.69	14.41
42	46	6.33	12.66	11.99	15.06	13.80	15.87	14.76	16.43	15.15
43	47	7.03	14.06	13.29	16.46	15.10	17.27	16.06	17.17	15.89
44	48	7.82	15.64	14.69	18.04	16.53	18.85	17.49	17.91	16.63
45	49	8.62	17.54	16.17	19.93	18.01	20.75	18.97	18.65	17.37
46		9.79	19.53	17.83	22.37	20.29	23.19	21.25	19.39	18.11
47		10.89	21.73	19.69	24.67	22.67	25.57	23.63	20.13	18.85
48		12.23	24.45	22.19	27.69	25.17	28.59	26.13	21.87	19.59
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Saying goodbye to the little black dress...

By
Ann Chubb

THE chic-est party frocks this winter are far removed from the ubiquitous little black dresses that we have all been wearing for far too long. Instead, colour and glitter are the big new stories.

Suddenly, Bruce Oldfield, the ultimate designer of little black dresses, has filled the front of his Beauchamp Place shop with everything but black. Instead, wonderful slinky jersey numbers in violet, berry red, fuchsia or emerald green are featured together with matching feathered jackets and dyed-to-match satin slippers by Charles Jourdan.

And, if your party dress is out in a bright jewel colour like this, the chances are that it sparkles and glitters. One of Harvey Nichols' best-selling dresses is the American-designed silver sequined shirt. Not cheap perhaps at £220 but wonderfully lightweight, crush-proof and packable—every socialite in New York owes one like it.

On similar lies, but very much cheaper, is the glitter shift from Fenwick which we picture. At just £34.95 this has the look but at a fraction of the price, but beware the glitter that it sheds in its wake; maybe a little hair-spray would act as a fixative.

Slinkiest of all, the deep red lame jumpsuit with the décolleté neckline from Simpsons. You need to be slim and shapely for this one; we used the accompanying sash as a flattering long slim scarf and added a classy glitter belt as a contrast.

The best thing about glitter clothes like these is that they need little or nothing in the way of jewellery: good for jet-setters who like to travel without insurance basses. Instead, add a glitter bow or a froth of veiling for the hair.

The very oewest party accessory of all is a pair of black lace gloves. Gloves are back in a big way for the young who have never worn them before for anything but warmth. Meanwhile, oewest tights are the stunning flower patterned ooes that we picture here from Laovio.

Glamour setting for our glamour clothes: Gleneagles hotel in Scotland which will also provide the setting for the BBC television's Hogmanay programme.



Above: The sequined silk shift that's the rage of New York—in silver, bronze, gold or grey on black, £220, by Kenar. Black lace gloves, £5-95, both from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Cocktail hat from a selection at Fenwick.



Pictures by
KENNETH MASON



Above: Red lamé jumpsuit, its wide belt worn as a scarf. Also in turquoise, £85 from Simpsons, Piccadilly, W1. Belt, bag and shoes from Charles Jourdan.



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BRUSSELS CHANGEOVER

A NEW COMMON MARKET Commission takes office in Brussels this week against a background of renewed self-confidence in the EEC and a widespread feeling that a new phase in the Community's evolution is both due and possible. Rightly or wrongly, the Commission has few direct powers to affect the lives of the Community's 260 million citizens but it is, or should be, the motor of initiative and the link between policies approved by the Governments and those affected by them. A good Commission should be able to inspire faith in European ideals without raising hopes beyond what is politically realistic. A poor one can breed scepticism and indifference. The four-year Commission under the presidency of M. GASTON THORN now ending made heavy weather of its few achievements—notably over the budget—and will generally be thought something of a disappointment. Better things will be expected from the new team under M. Jacques Delors, partly because it will no longer have to wrestle with the thresome British budget problem but more importantly perhaps because its composition promises a more practical and workmanlike answer to Community challenges.

Britain's members of the new 14-man team—Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis—seem well fitted by both background and temperament to strike the right note. They are both no-nonsense former trade men, versed in the complexities of EEC commerce with a keen sense of the vital need to create a genuine single market among the 10 member States. This, surely, must be the supreme objective of the Delors Commission once it has dealt with its legacy of budget and enlargement problems. For as long as the Community remains no more than a linkage of 10 separate market-places, each protected by differing technical fiscal and administrative regulations, it will remain at a serious disadvantage against America and Japan in the struggle for world trade.

This may strike some member Governments as too timid and prosaic an approach to the development of the Community. The new year will see the launching of a major debate on the role of the EEC institutions, the relationships between them and the member Governments and the extension of Community competence into such fields as security and defence. Many of the proposed innovations will be welcomed by Britain. But the Government does not share the enthusiasm of others for abandoning the national veto through the practice of majority voting. The new Commission's best chances of success seem to lie in pushing hard for liberalisation at the ground level—rather than campaigning for institutional reforms that are frankly premature.

INDIA'S LANDSLIDE

MR RAJIV GANDHI's spectacular election victory has made Indian political history, underlined the maturity of India's democracy, and given him and his ruling Congress party a handsome mandate for change. It has also made, if not laboured, the point that although the concept of a dynasty has its critics, Indian voters are apparently content that another Nehru will run the country. Mr GANDHI, young and politically unseasoned, won more decisively than ever did his mother or his grandfather with the Congress party taking more than 50 per cent. of the vote.

Several factors contributed to this astonishing landslide of which the so-called sympathy vote because of his mother's murder, and his "Mr Clean" image, were significant. Another was the failure, once again, of the opposition to unify their splintered ranks. Corrupt—although probably no worse than many politicians in the Congress party—selfish and discredited, the opposition has been obliterated which may or may not turn out to be sad and bad for India. But Mr GANDHI has been given a free hand.

Because he is still an enigma it remains to be seen whether Mr GANDHI is tough, and able, enough to continue cleaning up his party, and his Government, and the announcement of the new Cabinet today will provide some pointers. He has said his most important task was to work for national unity and to try for complete communal harmony after a year of truly terrible violence, and he is right to look first at the simmering cauldron of the Punjab. There Sikhs still live in doubt and fear, and Mr GANDHI, himself living under the shadow of assassination, is in a position to give them a much more generous and honest settlement than his mother would have offered.

There should, and could, also be a change for the better in India's relations with Pakistan. President Zia (whose referendum confirming his intention to rule automatically for another five years was, by comparison, a fraud) has been quick with a message of congratulation. As a start, and for the wellbeing of the region, Mr GANDHI should turn down the anti-Pakistan rhetoric.

JUST DESERTS

EVERYONE AFFECTS TO BE BORED by Honours Lists and everyone reads them with fascination. It is not always clear with what wisdom the hierarchy of honours is arranged. Dive into a freezing canal and rescue a drowning child and be content with a British Empire Medal, strictly an Isthmian league honour. Give 15 years modest mediocre service as a backbench politician who never made the grade and suddenly you are Sir Algernon. However the present hatch of honours have a subtle flavour.

It is absolutely right that Mr LEN MURRAY and Mr FRANK CHAPPEL should be joining the Lords on their retirement. Mr MORAY, a clever, illusionless, perceptive man has never run the TUC because it is constitutionally not intended to be run. But all his instincts and his most serious advice have tended to the side of reason and civility. No one who watched his outstanding and uncharacteristically brusque main speech at the conference of 1983 will have any doubts about his political and industrial understanding. Mr FRANK CHAPPEL as democratically elected and re-elected master in his own union, the EFTU, has been wonderfully brave, and direct. He should be remembered not only for taking on the Left but for running the most modern, most efficient union in the country, one which does actually give its members a service.

The two appointments are important also because they signify a door kept open by the Government to the constitutional, democratic and humane wing of that movement. Mrs THATCHER has the wisdom to treat democratic unions and their leaders with proper honour.



COMMENTARY

T. E. Utley

ONE OF the axioms on which well brought-up Tories were nourished before the war was that, whatever foreign policy might be based on, it must not be based on bluff. It was used by those who defended "appeasement" to support the view that we must never utter any threat to Hitler or Mussolini which we were not prepared literally to carry out.

It was also used by those Tories who conceded "appeasement": their concern was to point out to the Left the grave error, moral and political, of demanding resistance to aggression while continuing to insist on unilateral disarmament or, at any rate, to be ambivalent about re-armament.

How the world has changed! For decades now, under Tory and Labour Governments alike, foreign policy has often seemed to have been based exclusively on bluff, and bluff converted into a grand theory. The theory is known as "mutually assured destruction". It consists in the proposition that if we and our allies are possessed of weapons which could cause havoc and homicide to the Russians on a unacceptable scale, they will never attack us even though they have the means of destroying us (the British) totally should we ever use a strategic nuclear bomb against them.

Would we ever run the risk of using such a bomb? The enormity of the bluff is increased by the readiness of many of those who defend the "deterrent strategy" to say publicly, or at any rate clearly to imply, that we never would—that this ultimate horror is preserved solely as a "deterrent" and not with any serious intention of ever deploying it.

Now I support the retention of the nuclear deterrent, simply because I would be terrified out of my wits at the prospect of leaving us and our allies totally stripped of any possibility of effective response to a Russian attack; but I cannot honestly say that I am free from moral doubts about the legitimacy of the policy and I certainly cannot say that I am free from doubts about its prudence.

I would have thought, therefore, that the entire British public, from Mr Heseltine to Mrs Radford, would have fallen on their knees in gratitude to Mr Reagan and his scientists for proposing to try to invent a new sort of strategy which would enable us to destroy these vile weapons in space before an enemy can discharge them on us; and if, as has been suggested, the secrets of this defensive strategy could then be distributed to the enemy so that he would enjoy the same protection as we would, so much the better.

Of course, it may be that the proposal is technically impracticable (I would not know about that but neither, I suspect, do most of those who vigorously oppose it). It is also true that if America (in the absence of the disarmament agreement, which everybody should want) were to start manufacturing these defensive devices, Russia would try to do the same and this would "escalate the arms race", but it is not likely to be escalated anyway, and much more dangerously?

No: it seems to me that the real reason (apart from the silly name which has been attached to it) why the "star wars" proposal has been regarded with such widespread horror is quite different: if the nuclear threat were to be neutralised or largely neutralised the West would face the permanent and costly necessity to maintain large conventional forces to offset Russia's military strength.

After the 1939-45 war, we all resolved that we would never again put domestic prosperity before military preparedness; but we nearly escaped from the dilemma by slipping into dependence on nuclear weapons which, at a relatively low cost, would enable us to go on pursuing our own pet utopias—whether the welfare utopia of the Left or the "never-had-it-so-good" capitalist paradise of the modern Tory party.

Selflessly, I always address my New Year resolutions to plans for the moral improvement of others, and my suggestion for the critical year about to begin is that everybody engaged in this nuclear controversy on either side should seriously examine his conscience on the precise point of what relationship exists between his views on the bomb and his wish either for lower taxation or more public welfare. Meanwhile, a very happy New Year to President Reagan!

WHEN A public figure, whether he be a cardinal or not, makes a public statement, he may properly be expected to have calculated its public consequences. Cardinal Thomas Fee's assertions last week that nothing could be achieved in Ulster until Mrs Thatcher had gone will have absolutely no effect on British politics; but it will make the task of improving relations between Dublin and London far harder, and it is bound to give vast encouragement to the IRA and weaken the support for constitutional nationalism in the North. What did it spring from? Unspeakable stupidity or malicious prejudice, or a combination of both.

RICHARD INGRAMS considers the hyping process

Fortunes arising from hot air

I WAS INTERESTED to see the other day in a publisher's catalogue a book described as a "best seller"—the really interesting thing being that the book had not yet been published.

One might be tempted in the circumstances to complain to the trades description people but for the horrible thought that it is nowadays possible to arrange best-sellerdom in advance of publication by means of what has become known as "hype".

The word, according to American journalist Steven Aronson in his book of the same name, is of uncertain origin. According to some people it is derived from the hypodermic needle—the "hyped-up" becoming high, like drug addicts. Others maintain that the origin of the word is "hyperbole," the Greek for excess or exaggeration.

Aronson himself defines it as "the merchandising of a product, be it an object, a person or an idea—in an artificially engendered



atmosphere of hysteria, in order to create a demand for it or to inflate such a demand as already exists."

Whatever its origins, most people would agree that there is such a phenomenon as hype and that they are daily made aware of it. The reason is an increasing amount of newspaper space or television and radio air time is now given over to promotion rather than reporting.

The man being interviewed is not in the studio because the producer thinks he will interest the public. He is there because he is opening in a new play, or has just published a book. It is all part of the hyping process, the process which aims to make people suspend their critical faculties and succumb to a mood of woody enthusiasm about whatever it is that is on offer.

I recall not long ago meeting a well-known theatre critic and asking him his honest opinion of a very bad but much-hyped farce which had been a hit in the West End. "It was a lousy play," he said, "but I gave it a good review."

That man was a victim of hype. He had been so influenced by the hallelujah surrounding the produc-

* Published by Vermilion, £5.95.



tion that he had suppressed his real feelings about it.

Sometimes to do so, one feels, would demand almost superhuman courage. Try to imagine saying that Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical "Starlight Express" was by no means all that it had been cracked up to be. It would only be done by someone with the ingenueness of a man in the R.M. Bateman cartoon or the little boy who cried out that the emperor had no clothes.

The sad thing is that we are not only cowards but suckers, where hype is concerned. Some months ago I went with a group of friends to a Mayfair restaurant much mentioned in gossip columns and glossy magazines. To read about it, you would think that this was just about the best restaurant with the finest cuisine and the smartest clientele in London. I found the place noisy and full of executives, the food inadequate and expensive, the patron drunk and very aggressive. (I don't mention his name, incidentally, not from fear of a writ but because I know he would be delighted to have a further dollop of publicity on his plate.)

I was reminded of this incident reading Mr Aronson's action headed "Women who Rule the Game," which tells the story of Elaine Kaufman, proprietor of the most fashionable restaurant in New York, patronised by such names as Jackie Onassis, Liza Minelli and Leonard Bernstein.

Into her much-hyped histro one dank February day came a woman described by Mr Aronson as a "dumpy looking, middle-aged female of indeterminate social station," who was put at a table next to the kitchen door and well away from all the celebrities.

It turned out subsequently that she was the restaurant critic of the New York Times who wrote a damning critique referring, *inter alia*, to "mussels swimming in a broth that could have been pure salt water," re-heated clams and a "dilapidated women's wash-room with missing tiles and hislered plaster."

Miss Kaufman is only one in Mr Aronson's gallery of contempo-

rary Americans who, often with only minimal talent, have achieved fame and fortune by ruthless self-promotion. Perhaps the most extraordinary example is that of the advertising executive Peter Rogers who became a celebrity by persuading a number of other celebrities ranging from Brigitte Bardot to the fashionable Left-wing playwright Lillian Hellman to model for Blackglama minks under the slogan "What Becomes a Legend Most." Even a number of men like the opera singer Pavarotti became "legends" in exchange for a free fur coat.

In our smug British way we like to think that this sort of thing is typical of America.

But it takes an American like Mr Aronson to remind us that the most successful self-promoter of our day is an 81-year-old Hertfordshire housewife, Barbara Cartland.

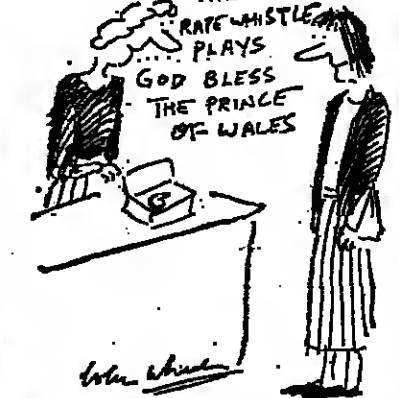
Aronson can hardly conceal his admiration for the way in which this "Empress of Hype," as he calls her, has ruthlessly promoted herself, and her family throughout her long life. Advised by Lord Beaverbrook early in her career to have a "platform"—a set of beliefs by which she could be identified—she also made the discovery that "charity has become a ladder with which to climb the social tree."

Now with three entries in the "Guinness Book of Records"—Most Books Written in a Year, World's Best Selling Author, Most Space in "Who's Who"—Miss Cartland has of course recently acquired another feather in her cap, one that must make her the envy of all American hype-artists—a connection, via the Princess of Wales's stepmother, with the Royal Family.

No wonder that business in all branches of the Cartland empire is booming. No more so than at the Spencer family seat of Althorp where, as Miss Cartland tells the author "my clever, clever daughter sells statuettes, glassware, matchboxes and rape-

whistles—all with a picture of Althorp on them."

Like Mr Aronson, one can only end up lost in admiration.



Like Mr Aronson, one can only end up lost in admiration.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Africa's ecological breakdown

SIR—I write as a friend of Africa (including South Africa) in response to Paul Johoso's article "Capitalism—the real threat to apartheid" (Dec. 14).

Mr Johoso writes of the propensity of capitalism to generate wealth and sees it as part of the solution. Unfortunately, he neglects the corollary: the propensity of capitalism to create poverty just because it encourages dissatisfaction with one's lot and movement from self-reliance, however humble, into a cash economy.

As one who was deeply distressed by the television pictures of the entrepreneurs flocking to the urban areas, picking up the unemployed rich pickings which Zimbabwe became "independent" and one who has known Africa for more than 30 years and watches with horror the breakdown over much of the continent, I would state that both communism and monopoly capitalism are destroyers and not problem solvers.

For any solution to be effective due consideration must be given to the speed of ecological breakdown: to the urban rush, to deforestation, to pollution, to desertification. While some blacks may benefit from the lure of capitalism, even more, dragged into the money economy, will become poverty-stricken and lose all their former self-reliance. Mr Johoso is encouraged by the fact that the number of black women in the professions in South Africa has trebled in the last 15 years to over 95,000. He does not mention that in that same period the population of the Republic increased by ten million, and, on present predictions (World Population Data Sheet) the average increase from now to the year 2000 will be over 5,000 people per day and this is from the excess of births over deaths and not from immigration! A not dissimilar number of people will be wanting jobs if they are encouraged to join the money economy!

While I am not yet completely convinced that "business" is deliberately causing the destruction of Africa in order to gain its own ends—the capitalism of which Mr Johoso writes is a convinced that business leaders are

Other letters page 7

generally blind to ecological reality and are causing environmental disaster in Africa on a scale that will inevitably wreck our own trade with that continent before long.

Economic growth in a finite planet the population "booming" time of which is estimated at 40 years is a no-starter for the majority. Self and local community reliance would be more effective.

P. A. B. PEACEY,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

Strange platform

SIR—According to Mr Stephen Eyles (Dec. 22) Lord Alton now deprived of the Tory whip in the Upper House, "is a socialist in everything but name."

Why stop at Lord Alton—who would probably claim to be exactly the same kind of Conservative he was when he served as a Minister in the Macmillan Government?

Were all Ministers then "socialists in everything but name?" Certainly some of Mrs Thatcher's most zealous supporters seem to think so, but it would be a strange kind of platform to present to the country.

The fact is that there is more than one definition of what Mr Eyles calls "authentic Conservative principles." Harold Macmillan saw (and still sees) them one way. A fair number of Conservative backbenchers apparently still see them the same way.

And Harold Macmillan, incidentally, did win a rather handsome victory at the polls in 1959—against a Labour party arguably more impressive than the one defeated in 1963.

CHRISTOPHER BRUCE
London, SW1.

The BBC mart

From Mr JOHN GORST, M.P. (Cons.) and Mr TIM BRINTON, M.P. (Cons.)
SIR—In his apparent desire to make out a case against an assessment of the BBC's finances or role in broad-casting, Mr Sean Day-Lewis (Dec. 17) writes that Tory M.P.s like John Gorst and Tim Brinton want "television to pay the levy to the cinema, despite the preference of many consumers for domestic viewing of films."

He implies that this is inconsistent with our heirs, in his view, "champions of market values."

Mr Day-Lewis has not followed the debates in the Standing Committee on the Films Bill. He should know that our support for the levy on television is because there is no free market in the buying and selling of feature films to the monopoly-dominated television industry.

Nor is the existence of market distortion, which is conceded by the Minister in charge of the Bill, the only reason for recycling funds from television in order to support a native, British cinema film industry.

The prices paid for showing cinema feature films on television are significantly below fair ones. Theoretically, 100 showings of a feature film in a 500-seat cinema (at 50.00 admissions), might yield £100,000. That is a price which television might, on average, pay to show the same film to an audience of eight million.

JOHN GORST, TIM BRINTON
House of Commons.

Motorway behaviour

SIR—I read the letter headed "High speeds" from Mr D. A. C. Hutchinson (Dec. 21) with incredulity.

Yes, I have come across drivers of like mentality on the motorways but over thought one would have the gall to write criticising other motorists.

The left hand lane is not a lorry lane! It is the lane all drivers should use unless they are overtaking who they should use the other lanes as "fast lane." No lane is designated a "fast lane," the speed limit is the same whichever lane you are in.

I am not a sales representative but I can sympathise with this much maligned section of the community refuse to move over. It is precisely that the right-hand overtaking lane does get so full and as a result, average speeds on it are well below the 80 to 85 mph as suggested.

HUGO VERNON
Solihull, West Midlands.

Word games

SIR—Can Mr E. C. Hayman (Dec. 20) as neatly explain why we "wash up," "dust down" and "clean through,"
T. WILLIAMSON
Haltwhistle, Northumberland.

New blood for the House of Lords

ALMOST as a response to the new-found independence of the House of Lords, Mrs Thatcher has created four new life peers, none of whom could be described as conventional in their politics. She has also cannily avoided any narrow party appointment to the Upper House.

Frank Chapple, of course, himself a former Communist, challenged the Communist hegemony of the elections in the electricians' union and then led it into a new era as one of the most moderate unions in the country.

Len Murray, an old-fashioned Labour party supporter, courageously stood up to the militants in his last year of office. Mary Warnock, the new Mistress of Gorton, is under heavy fire from Tory back-benchers for her report on human embryo research and has ever been regarded as a Conservative.

Only Nigel Vinson, the business-man founder of the "free market" Centre for Policy Studies fits the more conventional mould of Thatcher appointments in the Lords. He started in business in a Nisseco unit in 1952, covering metal components with plastic—a technique which he perfected and which thus allows him to describe himself on his passport—and in "Who's Who"—as "inventor."

Bart not quite

IN RECEIVING the KBE, Edward de Caenn, businessman and former chairman of the 1922 Committee, gains an award normally reserved for men of the cloth. Ecclesiastics are, of course, debarred from receiving their names with "Sir" alongside the style in hazy orders and the KBE is thus appropriate because they may use the initials after their name.

The me exception made to this rule in recent times came when a service was held in the Commons crypt to commemorate Sir Thomas More. Roman Catholics insisted that he was referred to as the order of service as a saint while some politicians stood out for the recording of his knighthood (plain, not a KBE). In the end he was referred to as St Thomas More. Kt.

Since the suspension of the awarding of hereditary honours by the 1964 Labour government, the KBE—the highest rank in the order of the British Empire—has also been regarded as a substitute for a baronetcy. Thus de Caenn (or Sir Edward as he now becomes) can reckon that had Mrs Thatcher reinstated hereditary knighthoods as well as peerages, he would have become a baronet.

Young visitor

LORD YOUNG, the Minister without Portfolio, is to head a major trade delegation to China in the spring. But eyebrows have been raised in

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Whitehall over such a relatively inexperienced Cabinet Minister, with no departmental responsibility for goods, being given the task of selling British goods in Peking.

One suggestion is that his overall responsibility for job creation provides too little meaty work for a man of his energies.

And with Norman Tebbit still recovering from his injuries, the Department of Trade and Industry is too stretched to send one of its own ministers.

Service included

BRITISH AIRWAYS, which recently commissioned the American company Landor to design its £2 million "new look," has been somewhat surprised by the techniques employed by the firm.

In the run-up to Christmas, two Landor executives took a senior B.A. man to a friendly lunch at Le Gavroche, which was fine—until a bill arrived at the airline's headquarters, not only for the meal but for the Landor men's time spent eating it.

There is, as they say, no such thing as a free lunch.

Lost and found

A STATUE once described as "one of the finest pieces of English sculpture," has been discovered behind the organ of the Albert Hall after a 100 year disappearance.

The masterpiece in marble, "Youth at the Stream," brought fame to its creator, John Henry Foley. It was commissioned by the Royal Horticultural Society at the request of its president, Prince Albert, for its new gardens, now the site of the Science Museum—and somehow got lost when the society moved quarters in 1888.

Foley was a particular favourite of the Victorians, praised for his statues of John Hampden, Sir Charles Barry and Viscount Hardinge. He was honoured with a tomb in St Pauls.

The break in the tedious daily routine for Norman Tebbit, which is his presidential duties, is that he is to be a member of his personal staff inquiring about the progress being made by the Trade and Industry Secretary.

Apparently Tebbit, on hearing about each call, would wink at his nurses and say: "The waltzers are gathering."

Welcome skeleton

MORE RESEARCH into Ronald Reagan's ancestry has disclosed that President-elect, he is Johnny Blue, one of the last distillers of Scottish moonshine—the outlawed double-strength whisky once hunted by the Excise-men.

Under Nancy Reagan's instruc-

LONDON DAY BY DAY



tions, the "Boris's Peerage" genealogist, Hugh Peskett, has been looking into the Scottish forebears of the President's mother. He discovered that Reagan's great-grandmother, Jane Blue, was a first cousin of the enterprising distiller from Kintyre.

The First Lady was not at all put out to find a lawbreaker in her husband's family. To be accepted among the "old" families of American society is a mark of good breeding to have a Scottish ancestor, preferably one with a touch of glamour—just as Australians boast of their descent from convicts transported from Britain.

Shelving the 4,000

WHILE 60 cartons of books belonging to the late Bishop of Woolwich, Dr John Robinson, await shelf space at Lambeth Palace, I learn that another large theological collection is on the move.

The Rev. Dr Alan Stephenson, the director of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Diploma from 1970, who died in July, left a library of 4,000 volumes on church history, theology, and clerical biography. His widow Betty is donating the entire collection to Ripon Cathedral, which is to set up a memorial library for use by students in the diocese.

The collection's new home is appropriate. Dr Stephenson was a dean of the cathedral, vice-president of Ripon Hall, and spent many years researching the life of Archbishop Langley, Ripon's first bishop and founder of the Lambeth Conferences. Stephenson was well advanced on a biography of Langley when he died and his son David hopes to finish the book.

Furry friends

A READER has spotted a rather ominous advertisement in the Oxford Star which states: "Wanted, cage suitable for two guinea pigs at least three feet long."

PETERBOROUGH

INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

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City EditorClifford
GermanDaily Telegraph
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London EC4P 4BS
Tel: 01-353 4242Merrill's
man scans
New Year

DESPITE falling interest rates at home, the dollar continues to test new peaks abroad as 1984 slides into 1985.

It also appears that the United States economy — with its troubling trade deficits and government budget over-spending — have picked up speed in recent weeks instead of continuing the autumn's downward trend. And all of this disturbing news takes place against a background of revived concern about the problems of the debtor developing countries and the stability of Opec's pricing policies.

Will America pull the rug out from beneath another year of recovery for Europe and the rest of the world in 1985? What is the dollar's trend for the year ahead?

When Wall Streeters want to answer those questions they turn to Thomas R. Robinson, head of Merrill Lynch's international economic division. For the 41-year-old Robinson, the key to the dollar's new year's prospects is whether or not Ronald Reagan gets his budget proposals adopted intact by Congress next month.

The Reagan budgetary proposals were a balanced attempt

THE
AMERICAN
INTERVIEW

to get at the Federal budget deficits without also throwing the United States economy into a serious tailspin, which I think would be adverse not only to the United States but also would be a big negative for the world economy. You cannot have the United States simply stop buying overseas because of a sudden recession here," Mr Robinson said recently.

Nor should people expect us to try to lower those deficits in one large chunk. We want to try to lower the deficit in a very gradual fashion. So I would expect in the upcoming fiscal 1986 budget proposal the deficit envisaged would be something close to \$130 billion. That would be some improvement from the \$175 billion to \$180 billion that will have been run in fiscal 1984 and 1985," he said.

Weaker dollar

A specific prediction? "I think for sterling we have a prediction of about .75 to the dollar or \$1.31 the other way. We are talking, say, 2-65 marks by the end of 1985."

"What is important for the world economy is that the foreign capital inflows into the United States will continue next year. This will keep worldwide interest rates higher than they otherwise would be."

But also I think that the flows are constructive in that they can be viewed as the final part of the deflationary adjustment process which is going on worldwide as well. I think that means less pressure on the commodity markets and less pressure on the gold markets and less prospect of a revival of inflation," Mr Robinson adds.

"I think the Federal Reserve kept money growth slow as it had been through the autumn as part of an insurance policy. I believe the Fed operates in the environment of ignorance that we all do. All the Fed is saying is that the slow economic growth of the autumn is certainly less than in the first half of 1984. But it may be just an interim period."

What, then, about the prospects of a United States recession at the end of 1985, or perhaps in early 1986?

"I think there is a risk but the imbalances in the United States economy are not very pronounced right now. The consumer is not seriously spending out of balance with capital spending."

But there is a risk that foreign investors remain confident in the United States if we start to see a flight of capital from the United States the fundamental result will be that interest rates will shoot through the roof at a time when the dollar collapses," Mr Robinson adds.

James Srodes

Bank shares rise
as Argentine
debt crisis cools

By ANNE SEGALL

INTERNATIONAL banks believe that once the Argentine debt crisis package which they have been hurrying to complete is finally in place, the world debt crisis will enter a much more manageable phase — one indeed where the term crisis may at last cease to be appropriate.

This growing mood of optimism is reflected in the performance of bank shares which have risen by 5 p.c. on average since the Argentine debt deal was announced early in December and by well over one quarter since the debt crisis plunged new depths in May.

That was the month when Argentina failed to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund in spite of pressure from the American government and when Latin American debtors seemed on the verge of forming a debtors' cartel. It was also the month when the stability of the entire international financial system was threatened by a run on the deposits of Continental Illinois of Chicago, America's eighth largest bank.

Banks now admit that the early summer produced some very real fears with both Argentina and Bolivia showing signs of wanting to walk away from their obligations. The failure of Argentina to bring its interest arrear up to date opened up the possibility of American banks having to make substantial provisions against their Argentine loans.

A second-hand market developed in unwanted third world loans, with Argentine loans trading at discounts of around 50 p.c. of face value.

So great was the sense of

LOMBARD STREET

£500m ON A GOLDEN STRING

THE HIGH street banks are planning to sell investors in industry, the 31 group. It could be worth anything up to £500 million.

They are now looking for the means of getting 31 into safe hands and keeping it there without at the same time wrecking the price. Could they keep a golden string in 31, they wonder, or attach a golden string?

Their shareholdings go back almost 40 years to the creation of 31 under its original name — still, perhaps, its best known — of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, or ICF, C. This was a joint effort by the London and Scottish clearing banks and the Bank of England, which still holds 15 p.c. of the shares.

Other holdings have been re-shuffled by bank mergers. National Westminster's is the biggest at 24 p.c. with Barclays, at 19 p.c. just ahead of the Midland.

ICFC's part in rebuilding British business after the war was to finance the middle-sized companies — too big to subsidise on bank overdrafts but too small to come to the stock market.

The need was there, and it made every sense for the big banks to come together and pool it. As market wits said of the Morgan family, buying shares during the Wall Street crash: Who else had any money left?

That ownership makes no sense now. It is not just that 31 has grown big and strong enough to stand on its own feet. The banks themselves have changed. Their cartels have been broken. Competitors have poured into what they took to be their tied markets and are still pouring.

The middle-sized business, for which ICF, C was designed, is now offered every kind of financial service from every kind of source. Many of these services — leasing, factoring, term loans or venture capital — come from the banks themselves.

Meanwhile 31 has grown to take its owners on in ship finance, property, energy, fund management and corporate finance. In all of these the banks are competing with each other. Why should they want

to co-operate in owning a group which competes with them all?

Now, too, the big banks are no longer the only people with any money left. By the standards applied to them they could use a little more.

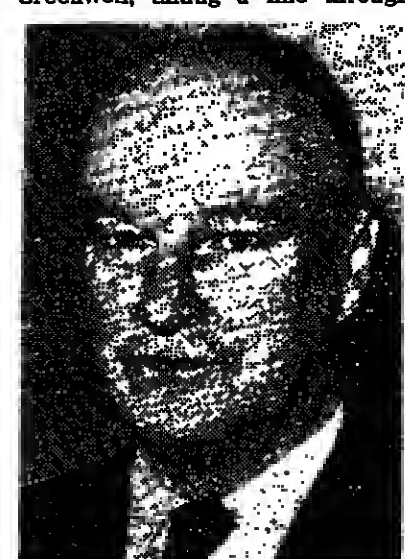
All the world's big banks are having to rebuild their balance sheets and their capital bases to recover from their international lending. Our own banks have been raising new forms of borrowed capital.

Now they have been told, in effect, that only equity will suffice — a message which the Bank of England's Peter Cooke prudently passed to them from a safe distance in a speech at Kishinadu.

Where is the equity to come from, say the banks? Another weary round of rights issues? Isn't there some investment we could turn into cash?

What sort of cash might the banks expect from 31? Its last financial year, to March 31, showed record profits of £33 million before tax and a balance sheet totalling £1,446 million, supported by £238 million of shareholders' funds.

Keith Brown, at brokers W. Greenwell, taking a line through



Lord Caldecote, chairman 31: "realising £40 million of profits without disturbing the markets."

the market ratings of some merchant banks, suggests that on those earnings 31 could be worth £200 million. Or, if the yield on 31 shares was the same as the merchant banking sector's, it would be worth another £40 million or so. Norval Reed, at Grenfell & Colegrave, is more sanguine. The 31 directors, he points out, say that their investments in land are worth £49 million more than the figure at which they appear in the balance sheet. Add the £49 million to shareholders' funds and add on another £24 million for deferred tax and you get £311 million.

Loan book

Since this year-end the stock market has gone up, interest rates have inched down, 31's client companies are likely to have strengthened their own finances — so the investments are worth more. And the loan book is worth more. Do I hear £400 million?

Even that may not be the last bid. We can only guess at the investment profits which 31 has up its sleeve, but chairman Lord Caldecote was able to claim that last year 31 realised £40 million of profits on shares it owned — "without disturbing the markets."

What about the investments which have yet to reach a market — the growing businesses, the new starts, the high-technology aspirants, the management buyouts? "They may have a mini-unlisted securities market tucked away inside there," Mr Reed says cheerfully.

Venture capital companies are themselves welcome in the stock market these days, as Candover's example shows. Among them 31 can fairly claim the rating due to a leader and earned by experience, long years of picking out debris having taught 31 people what some of their more starry-eyed competitors have yet to learn.

Mr Reed's idea of the price range for 31 is from £400 million to £500 million. But then, who would be allowed to buy it? All must depend on that.

Those few high street bankers who have not yet despaired of ingratiating themselves with the Prime Minister must suppose that

By Christopher Fildes

A GOLDEN STRING

a move towards freer competition would win her approval. But, good populist that she is, she would balk at seeing 31, the small man's friend, in the hands of Mr Magic the financier or Mr Pushful the usurer.

The Bank of England, with its own shareholding in 31, clearly has a special responsibility. There could be respectable buyers whom the banks would, none the less, want to keep out. They would not like to open up so large a share of their home market to Citicorp, say, or Deutsche Bank.

Hence the search for a golden share or golden string. Could 31 be sold, as the State holding in Ferranti was sold, to a group of buyers pledged to hold on to it, at least for while? Or as Britoil was sold, with the Government retaining a golden share giving rights to block a foreign takeover? Or as Jaguar was sold, with a golden share which has a limited life and in 1988 will turn into a pumpkin?

Once that search has succeeded 31 will be for sale, and if that goes well other sales will surely follow. The London clearing banks and the Bank of England own the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, the Scottish clearing banks own the Scottish Agricultural Securities Corporation. Both go back to the days when no one but the banks had any money — least of all the farmers. Times have changed.

Then there is the Yorkshire Bank, a model for the local banking which England and Wales, though not Scotland so lack — close to its roots, close to its customers, far from the Argentine.

Yorkshire Bank made £36 million before tax last year (this year, the miners' strike has hurt). The shares are owned by National Westminster, Barclays, Lloyds and the Royal Bank of Scotland group in that order. This anachronistic arrangement would have ended long since if any of the potential sellers could have trusted any of the potential buyers not to gobble the Yorkshire Bank up.

Sidney Wild, Yorkshire Bank's resourceful chairman, may already be comparing notes with Lord Caldecote at 31. Both will want to know how it feels to be gobbled up in golden string.

Stock Exchange and
Liffe set for clash

By JOHN RUDOFSKY

THE Stock Exchange and the financial futures market, Liffe, seem set for a head-on clash in the new year over foreign currency traded options. Both are determined to introduce them around spring but there is almost certainly only enough City business for one market.

Although both markets worked closely together during the early development of Liffe's futures contracts, each feels it is the natural home for these cash options which have been very successfully introduced in America and Amsterdam.

Currency traded options give the right to buy or sell a currency like sterling or Swiss francs at a fixed rate to the dollar for some months ahead regardless of subsequent exchange rate moves. But unlike futures, currency options are not committed to buying or selling. The stock market, keen to develop its traded options pitch, believes new options fall naturally within its sphere. It advertises itself as the place for the heavily watched Liffe over Life and may be called upon to choose which market should handle currency trade options.

Norton hopes for
Causton deal

SECURITY and specialist printer Norton Opax still hopes to reach agreement with Sir Joseph Causton over its £21 million bid for the company.

With its formal offer documents released over the weekend, the two boards continue to have their two boards continue. However, its pre-Christmas bid was designed to force Causton's hand.

COMPUTERS

IBM rescues its own 'Edsel'

IT LOOKS as if IBM has rescued its bottom-of-the-range PCjr microcomputer, and in the process made life exceedingly difficult for the host of other companies which have been getting sales by undercutting the giant company.

Scorned by reviewers, ignored by customers, the PCjr looked set to beat the Edsel car and Strand cigarette as a prime example of marketing failure. But IBM is not so easily beaten. Massive price cutting has brought the price below \$900 with colour screen, compared with \$1,140 as recently as July.

At this price the machine comes into direct competition with older and simpler machines like the Apple IIe, and also with Applied Computer Techniques' Apricot which it is trying to launch into the United States market this coming year.

The fierce price cut promoted Apple chairman Steven Jobs to speculate that IBM might be selling below cost. If so it could do more harm than denting the IBM profit margins because that would contravene American laws on misusing market power.

Coupled with the near-30 p.c. price reduction (if you include cash rebates and gifts to cash purchasers), a major marketing push was launched, and industry has scored, industry

ONCE again we invite readers to try their skill at Stock Exchange investments by naming the single share in our daily lists which they believe will outperform all others during 1985.

This is the seventh year of what has proved to be an extremely popular competition. Every month we will be publishing regular reports on the progress of the race.

As prizes there will be at least 100 bottles of champagne with magnifying for the outright winners. The reader or readers who nominate the winning share will each be sent a bottle. Then these nominating the second-best share . . . and so on.

We would like to hear from people for whom investment is an occasional hobby as well as from those whose work involves financial matters.

THE RULES

1. Competitors must select ONE SHARE ONLY from the securities listed on the prices page of The Daily Telegraph. Entries must be limited to one per person. Multiple applications will be rejected and securities standing at less than 10p are excluded.

2. Entries should only be made on forms printed in The Daily Telegraph. Photocopies are not acceptable.

3. Starting prices will be taken at the close of business on January 2, 1985 as shown in The Daily Telegraph of January 3, 1985.

4. Final prices will be taken at the close of business on December 6, 1985, as shown in The Daily Telegraph on December 7, 1985.

5. Share prices will be adjusted for scrip and rights issues during the year.

6. Shares subject to a takeover bid which becomes unconditional will be valued at the higher of cash or share alternative as at the date the bid becomes unconditional.

7. Entries must be received by January 4, 1985.

8. The City Editor's decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

9. Employees of The Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph and Telegraph Sunday Magazine and their families are not eligible to enter the competition.

Andreas Whitman Smith, City Editor

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TO: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH Share Race, 118, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4BS.

My share of the year is . . .

Name and Address and telephone number . . .

Tel: . . .

Dunlop silent on equity plan

DUNLOP HOLDINGS would not comment yesterday on suggestions that shareholders' equity will be halved under the rescue plan now being arranged.

The terms are not yet finalised, said a spokesman. Dunlop's friendly talks with key shareholder Malaysia Berhad are continuing. "It is just a question of time."

Dunlop's shares were suspended at the beginning of December and chairman Sir Michael Edwards warned talks would take a while.

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Asda acquires Watford site

THE superstore retailing chain of Associated Dairies, Asda, has acquired part of the former Odhams printing works site at Watford from British Printing and Communications Corporation for a £20 million superstore.

Recently BPCC obtained planning permission for a hypermarket on part of the site following an appeal to the Department of the Environment after the local council had refused consent.

By Michael Beckett

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Brokers see Lawson on 'risky' course

By FRANCES WILLIAMS

MR LAWSON, the Chancellor, is taking significant risks with sterling and inflation in his efforts to maintain the momentum of economic recovery, a leading firm of stockbrokers says in New Year forecasts published today.

Dr Paul Nield, chief economist with Phillips & Drew, says the Chancellor's policy of nudging interest rates down wherever possible is stimulating the economy in three ways.

"It makes borrowing cheaper. It weakens exchange rate and so improves industrial competitiveness. And, through impact on the pound, it boosts the sterling value of North Sea oil revenues which is then available for tax cuts."

Though the Chancellor is keen to stick to money growth targets and keep public borrowing on a downward track, these

constraints are not rigid, as recent overruns suggest, Dr Nield says.

The brokers now expect a public sector borrowing requirement in 1984-85 of £9.25 billion against Mr Lawson's revised £8.5 billion forecast, mainly because of the prolongation of the miners' strike into 1985.

And they are a little less optimistic than the Treasury on economic prospects generally next year, predicting 3 p.c. growth, inflation edging up to 5½ p.c. by the end of the year, a small, £500 million surplus on the current balance of payments and a slight drop in bank lending rates to 9 p.c. by next Christmas.

But, Dr Nield says, the Chancellor's policy means that risks are continually being run with sterling, with consequent dangers for inflation.

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Agricultural
commodities
set to fall

By DAVID GREEN

A COMBINATION of surpluses and 'good' crop prospects is likely to cause a fall in the average price of agricultural commodities during the coming year.

Yet a number of soft commodities started 1984 in strong form. Tea soared to an all-time record of more than \$5,000 a tonne in the wake of export restrictions imposed by India. Cocoa and Coffee also performed well on adverse weather conditions.

Prospects for the 1984-85 cocoa crop indicate a global production of around 1.75 million tonnes which should bring production and consumption roughly in line to balance after two years of deficit.

This implies a general easing in prices but with the substantial reduction in stocks over the past two seasons there is a likelihood to be any dramatic fall.

Hopes that a new international price stabilisation agreement can be reached are not high. Producers and consumers met in Geneva in October and are due to have another try in February.

Coffee, on the other hand, is one of the few commodities that has the benefit of a reasonably efficient pact designed to stabilise prices between \$1.20 and \$1.40 a pound. But pressure from European consumers, facing the extra costs of paying for a dollar-devaluated crop, forced an increase in the global export quota for 1984-85. This should ensure an easing in price.

Tea prices could also be expected to dip given the increased production in India, but the unknown factor is that country's export policy.

The commodity that has been hit the hardest is sugar where the world price, at under four cents a pound, is at its lowest for 14 years and is about a third of the cost of production.

Huge stocks and no real sign of any substantial cutback in production makes it unlikely that there will be any recovery in prices during 1985. At the same time, consumption is being affected by the growing use of corn syrups for use as sweeteners, especially in soft drinks.

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The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List the above-mentioned loan stock and dealings will commence today for deferred settlement on 25th January 1985.

WESSELS REVEL AS AUSTRALIA'S LUCK CHANGES

By ALAN SHIELL in Sydney

Riding a wave of good luck for the first time in the series Australia controlled the first day's play against the West Indies in the fifth Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

With Kepler Wessels leading the way with his fourth century in 17 Tests and the 32nd of his first-class career, Australia advanced to 235 for two off 77.

In front of a crowd of 26,003 just about everything went Australia's way for a change.

Allan Border won the toss and the West Indies seemed to bungle their team selection by omitting off-spinner Roger Harper instead of fast bowler Courtney Walsh. They then dropped two wickets and missed a run-out in the first 36 minutes.

Much later, Border, on seven at 208, was given the benefit of a decision off Viv Richards—which could easily have gone against him.

Rain threat

Weather permitting it rained again last night—the Australians must consolidate today and press on to a total of at least 400.

This would give them a real chance of finally exerting pressure on the West Indians, who will have to bat last on an unpredictable pitch again.

Wessels' understated 128, with 15 boundaries in five and a quarter hours, contained many of his woodchopper's cuts and drives interspersed with the cautious, unorthodox and lifted his series aggregate to 432 (average 56.6).

Australia's first innings

A. M. J. Hilditch & Co. 1-12, 2-26, 3-33, 4-40, 5-47, 6-54, 7-61, 8-68, 9-75, 10-82, 11-89, 12-96, 13-103, 14-110, 15-117, 16-124, 17-131, 18-138, 19-145, 20-152, 21-159, 22-166, 23-173, 24-180, 25-187, 26-194, 27-201, 28-208, 29-215, 30-222, 31-229, 32-236, 33-243, 34-250, 35-257, 36-264, 37-271, 38-278, 39-285, 40-292, 41-299, 42-306, 43-313, 44-320, 45-327, 46-334, 47-341, 48-348, 49-355, 50-362, 51-369, 52-376, 53-383, 54-390, 55-397, 56-404, 57-411, 58-418, 59-425, 60-432, 61-439, 62-446, 63-453, 64-460, 65-467, 66-474, 67-481, 68-488, 69-495, 70-502, 71-509, 72-516, 73-523, 74-530, 75-537, 76-544, 77-551, 78-558, 79-565, 80-572, 81-579, 82-586, 83-593, 84-600, 85-607, 86-614, 87-621, 88-628, 89-635, 90-642, 91-649, 92-656, 93-663, 94-670, 95-677, 96-684, 97-691, 98-698, 99-705, 100-712, 101-719, 102-726, 103-733, 104-740, 105-747, 106-754, 107-761, 108-768, 109-775, 110-782, 111-789, 112-796, 113-803, 114-810, 115-817, 116-824, 117-831, 118-838, 119-845, 120-852, 121-859, 122-866, 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